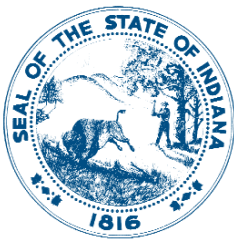


Assistant Majority Caucus Chairman

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19



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Spring, 2002

Dear Friends:

The 2002 short legislative session ended in mid March, and for the second straight year I am expressing my disappointment in what I saw take place. As I write this newsletter, preparations are being made for a special session, and it is my hope that we can accomplish the tasks that should have been done earlier.

Nearly every state in the country is experiencing a budget deficit as a result of the national recession. In a recent study conducted by the National Conference of State Legislators, 45 states report that revenues have failed to meet budgeted levels. In Indiana, Governor O'Bannon has made cuts to public schools, state programs, state jobs, and higher education to slow our skid toward a projected \$1.3 billion deficit in July, 2003.

Knowing that such a problem exists, I believe that all members of the Indiana General Assembly should have focused their efforts on addressing the problem. Of course, that would have taken cooperation from Democrats and Republicans alike, and it simply did not happen. Unfortunately, some of the very top leaders chose to "play politics" instead of putting the citizens of Indiana first. It would have taken tough decisions—ones that could possibly be used against us in the upcoming election. But I believe the public expects each of us to take a stand and make the tough decisions, rather than run from them.

My message may seem a bit harsh, and perhaps I am not being a good politician by being so upfront with you. However, I have never believed in sugar coating an issue in attempt to make you feel good.

The good news is that the special session is expected to be very short, and hopefully the pressing issues will be addressed in a timely manner. Although the media reports that the top leaders are not wanting to go back to work, I am optimistic that a majority of us want to put politics aside and make the special session a productive one.

In closing, I ask that you continue to keep in contact with any ideas and suggestions, and please remember to keep our country and state in your prayers.

May God Be With You,

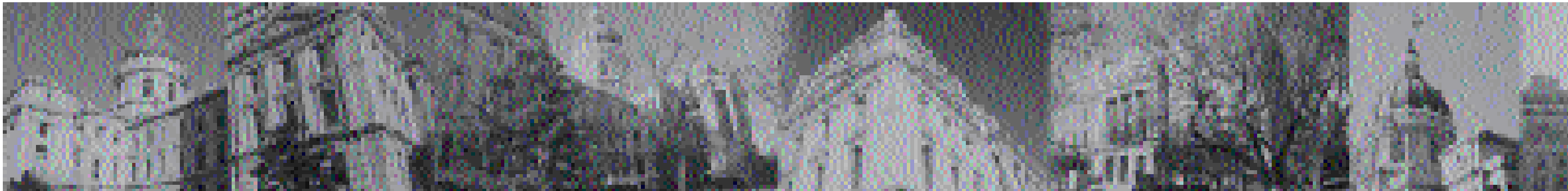


Inside

•Anti-terrorism laws

•Gas gouging

•Protecting our children



Price gouging addressed

Following the September 11 disaster, many of you contacted me to express your concerns on the price gouging of gasoline.



REP. D. DENBO
DISCUSSES LEGISLATION WITH
LT. GOV. JOE KERNAN.

Fortunately, we did not see the drastic gouging here in District 62 as was seen in other parts of the state.

Consequently, late last fall, I used my position as chairman of the Administrative Rules Oversight Committee to conduct hearings on the subject. With the full cooperation of Attorney General Stephen Carter, we were able to formulate suggested legislation for this past session.

Two separate and somewhat different bills were introduced, one by Rep. Cochran and the other by me. It was decided to move the Cochran bill, but only after it was stripped of its original provisions and my language inserted.

The legislation had overwhelming support and passed easily. As a result, the state attorney general now has the right to impose severe penalties upon those business people who engage in price gouging during an emergency or crisis. The legislation applies to gasoline and other petroleum products.

Legislature stands together on public safety laws

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, officials across the country took a serious look at the ability of local emergency systems to respond to a similar threat. The members of the Indiana General Assembly passed several laws during this session to help meet the challenge of our new defense requirements.

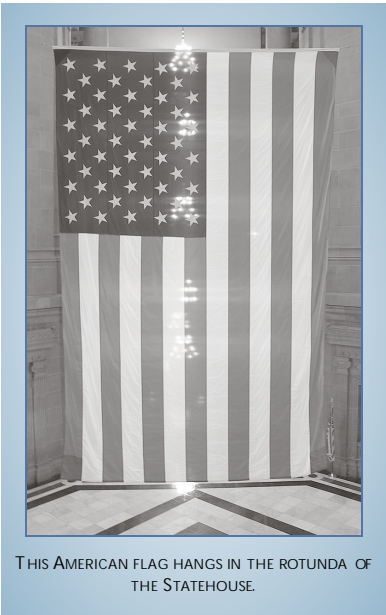
House Bill 1001 establishes a Counter-Terrorism and Safety Council (C-TASC) that will serve as the coordinating state agency for emergency management response to terrorist acts. Chaired by the lieutenant governor, the council will develop anti-terrorism strategy, including placing an affiliate of the council in each county, coordinating efforts with the U.S. Office of Homeland Security, and implementing counterterrorism training in the state law enforcement academy.

Part of a \$1.25 BMV service charge will be used to develop an integrated wireless public safety system to help connect agencies across the state in case of an emergency. A portion of the serv-

ice charge will also be used to alleviate the state police crime laboratory backlog.

The law includes penalties for several terrorist and public safety issues, including:

- money laundering to support terrorist activities
- restrictions on the issuance of commercial driver's licenses and hazardous materials endorsements
- penalties concerning regulated explosives or devices, the possession of a weapon of mass destruction or the intent to cause a person to believe that a substance is a weapon of mass



THIS AMERICAN FLAG HANGS IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE STATEHOUSE.

destruction

- disorderly conduct on airport premises
- interruption or impairment of work at a food processing facility
- the expulsion of a student who brings a destructive device on school property.

While no one foresaw the devastation of the September attacks, we are taking every step possible to maintain Indiana's safety to the fullest extent.

Telephone Privacy List still available

If you haven't yet registered for the Telephone Privacy List, you still have time. Although the list is already in effect, it is updated every three months. If you register now, your name will be included when the updated list takes effect July 1, 2002.

The Telephone Privacy List is free to Indiana residents. By adding your name, most telemarketers will be prevented by law from calling you. You only need to register once to be included.

How to register

You may register by calling the toll-free number, 1-888-834-9969. You may also register online at the Attorney General's Website at www.in.gov/attorneygeneral.

Certain exceptions

Registering with the Telephone Privacy List will not eliminate all telemarketing calls. Four types of solicitors are exempt from the law: Charitable organizations using volunteers or employees to make calls; newspapers using employees to make calls; insurance agents; and realtors.

Violations

If you receive a telemarketing call from someone other than the exceptions listed above after the list becomes effective, you may download a complaint form from the Attorney General's Website or call 1-812-355-5915. The Attorney General's Office may fine the company up to \$25,000 for the violation.

Child protection remains a top legislative priority

This year some of our finest work in the legislature came in passing laws to improve upon the safety of Indiana's children. The Amber Alert program, set forth in Senate Bill 20, establishes a missing child network. This network includes a statewide, toll-free telephone line to report missing children and sightings of missing children, a clearinghouse of child identification and investigative information, and agreements with local television stations to broadcast information about a missing child.

Legislators took several steps against sexual predators. Senate Bill 482 toughens laws against soliciting a child over the Internet, permitting a police officer to pose undercover as a child in order to capture offenders. This law also makes it a crime to fondle oneself in front of a child.

In recent years there has been an increase of Websites that specialize in photos of children and child pornography. House Bill 1010 applies existing state laws dealing with child exploitation, possession of child pornography and obscenity to these digital images.



REP. DENBO STUDIES LEGISLATION IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER.

Why Indiana is experiencing a fiscal deficit

For several years, I was able to report to you that the State of Indiana had a sizeable surplus, which was one of the largest in the nation. So, naturally the question often asked is, "What happened to the surplus?"

First of all, the money was never actually in the bank but rather was based on projected income—just as you and I figure our household budgets based on our projected incomes. And, just as you and I would be affected if our salaries were cut, the same thing happened to our state government.

In recent years, the nation's economy was very good. More people were working (and earning more) than at any time in history, and the private sector was spending a lot of money.

When the recession hit, many workers lost their jobs and others saw their hours cut back. As a result, the State of Indiana was unable to collect the projected income tax that was being counted upon. Also, people stopped spending as much, and the state could not collect the projected amounts of sales tax.

In addition, over the past few years, the state legislature has provided over \$1.5 billion in tax cuts. I was one who enthusiastically supported such tax relief, because my surveys and correspondence showed that you preferred the tax breaks instead of banking the surplus.

Add everything together, and the State of Indiana has gone from a surplus to a deficit.

2002 legislative survey results for District 62

Before this year's legislative session I mailed surveys to the members of our district. The results are listed below. Thank you for participating, and please contact me if you have questions about these or other issues in state government.

Legislation addressing these issues

1. Do you support my legislation that deals with businesses that engage in price gouging during a national emergency or crisis? Yes: 90% No: 10%	House Bill 1015, signed into law
2. Would you support creation of a franchise or earnings tax to ensure that businesses pay their fair share of any tax restructuring plan? Yes: 81% No: 19%	House Bill 1004, passed by the House
3. Do you believe it is the responsibility of state or local government to pay public welfare costs? State: 85% Local: 15%	House Bill 1004, passed by the House
4. Would you prefer to see the state cut spending rather than increase taxes, even if such a move causes a reduction in critical services? Yes: 72% No: 28%	Recent cuts by Governor O'Bannon
5. Would you support increases in sales or income taxes to offset reductions in property taxes? Yes: 68% No: 32%	House Bill 1004, passed by the House
6. Would you support flexible boarding / dockside gaming if it resulted in additional revenue to reduce the burden on local property taxes? Yes: 76% No: 24%	Senate Bill 333/House Bill 1332 passed each chamber separately, unsuccessful in final version
7. Do you support casino gaming in French Lick and West Baden as a means of restoring the historic hotels and reviving a dying economy? Yes: 83% No: 17%	Senate Bill 333/House Bill 1332 passed each chamber separately, unsuccessful in final version
8. Should the state consider anti-terrorism legislation? Yes: 81% No: 19%	House Bill 1001, signed into law



Representative

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